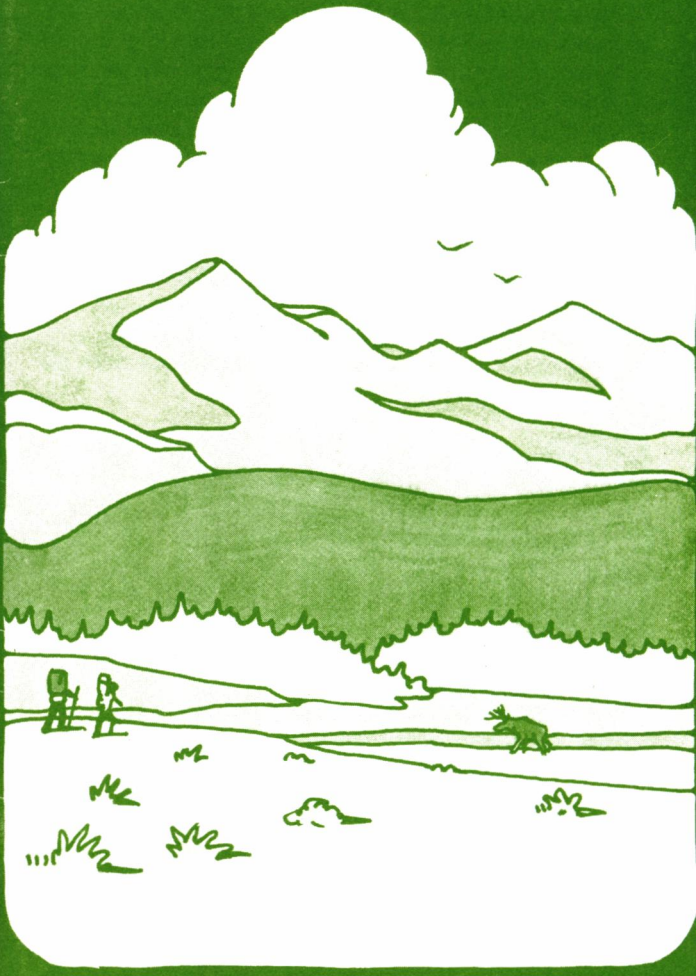
SD
11
.A1
A42
NO.
20
1983

# What the Forest Service Does



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

FS-20

## Forest Service Responsibilities

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides leadership in the management, protection, and use of the Nation's forests and rangelands, almost two-thirds of the Nation's land.

The agency is dedicated to multiple-use management of these lands for sustained yields of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation. Under this management concept, the best combination of uses benefits the American people and assures the productivity of the land and quality of the environment for future generations.

The Forest Service is the largest and most diverse agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The agency's 30,000 permanent full-time employees, plus summer employees, constitute the Government's major conservation organization. Forest Service employees perform many different natural resource tasks, ranging from improving the beauty and productivity of the forests, to showing strip miners how to rehabilitate the land, to managing much of the Nation's wilderness.

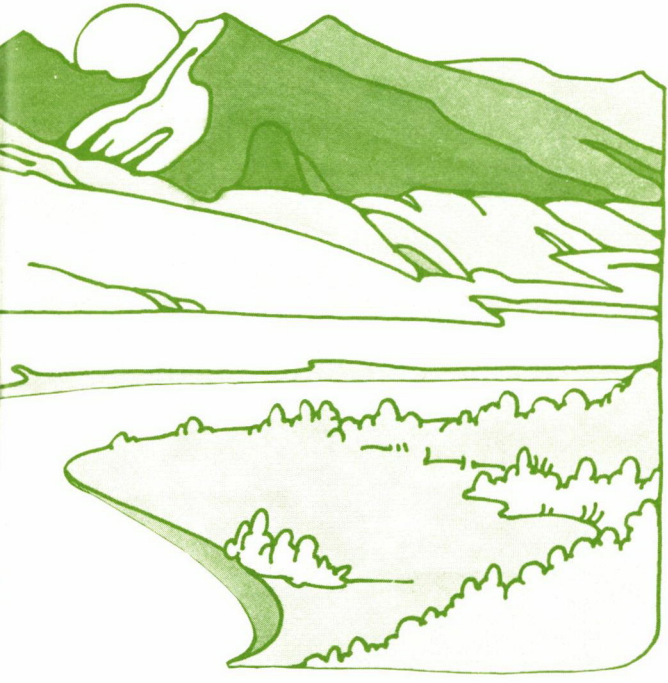
The Forest Service relies on long-range program planning to assure that the resource demands placed on the

Nation's forests and rangelands are met and the productivity and environmental quality of these lands are maintained. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA), bolstered by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), provides for this planning.

This long-range planning focuses on the periodic development of two documents. One, the Assessment, presents long-term demands and supplies of renewable resources on the Nation's 1.6 billion acres of forest and rangeland, under all ownerships. The Assessment recognizes how these resources may be better used.

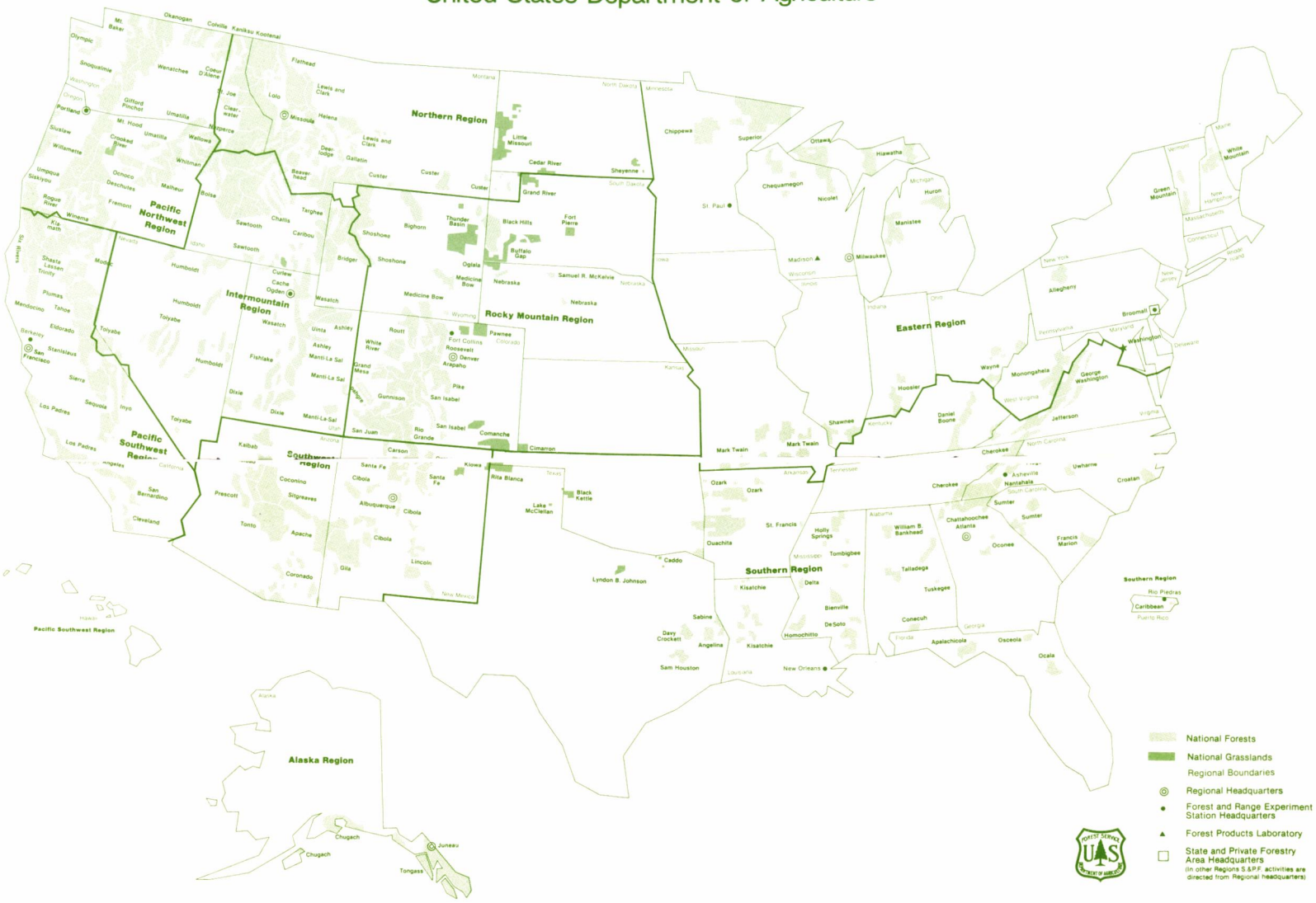
The other, which is based on the Assessment, is the long-range Program for all Forest Service activities, including management of the National Forest System, State and Private forestry programs, and forestry research. A new Assessment is prepared every 10 years and a new Program every five. The Forest Service involves the public in preparation of both.

These documents, as well as other policy direction, serve as a guide to long-range planning and provide one basis for the development of annual budget proposals.



# The Forest Service

United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service activities cover three major areas:

- Management, protection, and use of the National Forest System, covering 191 million acres of land, for continuous flows of services and products both now and in the future.
- Cooperation with State foresters, private forest and woodland owners, wood processors, and private and public agencies. This cooperation is designed to focus scientific management and utilization on forest resources to improve the quality and increase the quantity of goods and services produced from non-Federal forest lands.
- Research in forestry and forest products utilization to support National Forest management and cooperative forestry programs, plus management of all the Nation's forests and rangelands in general.

The 155 National Forests, 19 National Grasslands, and 18 Land Utilization Projects that make up the National Forest System are located in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This land includes such diverse areas as mountain glacier fields, forests, range and grasslands, lakes and streams, and tropical rain forests. The natural resources on these lands represent some of the Nation's greatest assets and have major economic, environmental, and social significance for all Americans. These resources are managed for a variety of benefits including water, forage, wildlife habitat, wood, recreation, wilderness, and minerals. To guide this multiple-use management, the Forest Service prepares integrated land and resource management plans for each

National Forest unit. Public involvement plays a key role in development of these plans.

### Water

Much of the Nation's water supply flows from National Forest System lands. Assuring adequate yields of high quality water and continuing soil productivity are the aims of the Forest Service's watershed management programs. Agency efforts include developing and implementing practices to prevent soil loss or damage and protecting water quality from the effects of such land-disturbing activities as roadbuilding. Other major activities include rehabilitating abandoned minelands and other areas abused by past methods, assessing water requirements and securing the needed water rights for National Forest activities, and monitoring the effectiveness of current practices.

The Forest Service also conducts soil and water inventories, which are essential to wise resource management. These inventories provide information about soil productivity, erosion and soil stability problems, and the effects of vegetation on water yields.

## Forage

The Forest Service manages more than 14 percent of the Nation's 1.2 billion acres of forest range. This National Forest System (NFS) rangeland is managed to conserve the land and its vegetation while providing food for both domestic livestock and wildlife.

Forage production is a primary use of these lands. However, under multiple-use concepts, grazing areas also serve as watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreation sites, and demonstration areas of range management. Grazing privileges are granted on all forest ranges within the NFS, including the 3.8 million acres of National Grasslands. More than 3 million head of cattle and sheep graze on NFS lands annually under permit arrangements with private ranchers and farmers. About 15,000 rural families, mostly owners of small herds in the Western States, hold renewable grazing privileges for which an annual fee is charged. Some ranchers depend upon seasonal grazing from Federal lands to "round out" their year-long forage supply.

Permittees cooperate with the Forest Service in range improvement projects. Also, proper grazing use of privately owned forest land is encouraged and assisted through cooperation between State agencies and the Forest Service.

The Forest Service shares responsibility with the Bureau

of Land Management for the protection of wild and free-roaming horses and burros on public rangelands.

**Wildlife and Fish Habitat**

The Forest Service manages fish and wildlife habitat on the National Forests and National Grasslands in cooperation with the fish and game departments of the States.

The National Forest System provides hunting and fishing enthusiasts, bird and animal watchers, photographers, and students the opportunity to enjoy fish and wildlife in their natural habitats.

While these lands are less than one-twelfth of the country's total area, they contain about half of the Nation's big game. The 83,000 miles of forest streams and 1.8 million acres of lakes provide excellent habitat for many species of fish and wildlife.

The Forest Service carries out various projects to make National Forest System lands a better home for fish and wildlife. Projects include developing spawning beds for fish, stabilizing stream channels, making potholes for waterfowl, erecting fencing, developing new fishing lakes, conducting prescribed burning, and enacting other conservation measures. Top priority is given to maintaining and improving habitats of the 64 threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, and plant species found on NFS lands. Programs to maintain and improve habitat are carried out in consultation and cooperation with State fish and game agencies.

Wildlife resources on these lands annually attract more than 30 million visitor-days of hunting and fishing and about 2 million visitor-days of such "nonconsumptive" pleasures as wildlife photography and birdwatching. (A visitor-day represents the equivalent of 1 person using a National Forest for 12 hours, 12 persons for 1 hour, or any equivalent combination.)

**Wood**

Of the 187 million acres of National Forests, 86.5 million acres are classified as commercial forests. Commercial forest land is land that is available for, and capable of, producing crops of industrial wood. These commercial forests help furnish the Nation with the lumber and plywood needed for increased housing and industrial demands, and with paper products.

Largely because of the substantial areas of large, overmature trees in the Pacific Northwest, the National Forests contain 52 percent of the Nation's standing softwood timber. Some 27 percent of the Nation's annual softwood harvest comes from the National Forests. They also contain about 8 percent of the Nation's hardwood sawtimber and provide about 3 percent of the annual harvest.

The Forest Service annually sells about 11 billion board feet of timber from the National Forests. The agency reforests an average of 400,000 acres and improves about

400,000 acres of young timber by thinning and release from vegetative competition.

National Forest timber is managed on a sustained-yield basis to produce a continuous supply of wood products to meet the country's economic demands while maintaining the productivity of these lands. Timber is harvested on each National Forest according to a plan that is revised every 10 years to reflect changes in inventory, use, and environmental objectives. However, changes affecting the amount of timber available may be incorporated into the plan as they occur.

The forest land and resource management plans also describe logging and reforestation systems to be used in harvesting and replanting trees. For instance, balloon, helicopter, and skyline cable harvesting systems often facilitate reforestation and protect other resource values. In preparing individual timber sales, foresters decide on the specific silvicultural and harvesting systems appropriate for the particular soil conditions involved and determine the measures necessary to protect the environment.

Timber management, including prudent timber harvests, can improve watersheds by increasing water flow. Openings created by harvests also improve wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. For instance, wildlife feed on the vegetation that grows well there, and cross-country skiers take advantage of the open fields of snow in winter.

Our national appetite for wood products has jumped 70 percent during the past 30 years, and the United States

will face even greater demands for forest products by the year 2000. In order to increase the amount of timber produced from National Forest lands, more intensive management practices are being applied, such as thinning in young timber stands; salvage of timber damaged by fire, insects, or disease; reforestation of old burns; genetic improvement of tree species; and fertilization.

**Recreation**

Meeting our Nation's increasing demands for recreational opportunities in a pleasing forest environment is a major aim of forest land managers. America's leisure time interests include a wide variety of outdoor activities—sightseeing, picnicking, camping, backpacking, and attending educational programs offered by visitor information centers. Demand is surging for water recreation opportunities such as boating, fishing, and water skiing. And hunting continues as a favorite activity.

In winter, America's skiing enthusiasts travel to the numerous popular commercial resort areas, many of which are on National Forests, for both downhill and cross-country skiing.

The Forest Service supplies more outdoor recreation than any other Federal agency.

Much of this recreational use takes place in the natural forest environment—with its woodlands, streams, and mountains—and on the 101,000 miles of trails administered by the agency. However, the National Forests also contain a wide range of developed facilities, for the convenience and enjoyment of those who camp, picnic, boat, swim, or participate in winter sports. The Forest Service maintains more than 6,000 campgrounds and picnic grounds, 300 swimming sites, 1,000 boating sites, and 250 winter sports sites. National Forest recreational facilities have a combined total capacity of 1.5 million people at any one time.

The Forest Service also administers 9 National Recreation Areas and all or part of 16 rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In addition, more than 25,000 cultural, historical, and archeological sites have been identified within the National Forest System.

The Forest Service pioneered the establishment of wildernesses on National Forests in 1924 with the Nation's first such area—the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. The National Forest System now contains 164 congressionally designated wildernesses on 25.3 million acres, and 9 primitive areas covering 957,000 acres.

**Minerals and Energy**

National Forest lands are a major source of mineral and energy supplies for our Nation's economic security. Energy resources on NFS lands include oil, natural gas, coal, geothermal steam, and uranium. Mineral commodities of strategic importance on these lands are nickel, cobalt, molybdenum, tungsten, and vanadium. Other important commodities include gold, silver, lead, phosphate, barite, and construction materials such as gravel and stone.

Responsibility for regulating and managing mineral activities on National Forest System lands is shared by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. Actual mineral operations are managed by the Department of the Interior, but surface resource operations on mineral lands are controlled by the Forest Service.

Several laws allow eligible persons to locate claims and mine mineral deposits—except "leasable" minerals—on public domain lands. The Forest Service administers mining claims by requiring that operators work according to approved operating plans. The approved plans must include provisions for reclamation.

Mineral leasing laws authorize the Department of the Interior to lease lands, including National Forest System lands, for production of certain "leasable" minerals including oil and gas, coal, phosphate, potassium, sodium, and sulfur.

The Forest Service is authorized to manage the forest resources on leased lands by recommending appropriate

conservation measures to be followed by a lease operator. Strip mining of Federal coal is generally prohibited on National Forests.

The minerals management objective of the Forest Service is to permit environmentally responsible prospecting and mining where those activities are authorized by law and are compatible with the overall forest plan. Mineral areas are managed to insure that mineral extraction results in minimal disturbance and damage to the land and that damaged lands are reclaimed. Reclamation should return disturbed areas to high levels of production and usefulness after mineral operations and prevent their becoming unsightly scars, dangers to the public, or sources of pollution.

### Fire Management

The Forest Service, with one of the world's largest wildland fire fighting forces, provides direct fire protection and control for National Forest System lands. It also provides cooperative fire control on several million additional acres.

Fire control activities require substantial fire presuppression efforts. These include building firebreaks and access roads and conducting controlled burns to reduce vegetation that might otherwise be hazardous fuels in wildfires.

Fire suppression requires trained personnel, specialized equipment, and support. After wildfire is controlled, conservation practices are followed to protect and restore the productivity of burned areas.

The Forest Service fire management program includes the use of prescribed fire, as well as wildfire control, to provide efficient fire protection while contributing to National Forest resource management objectives. Prescribed fire can be a useful tool for improving wildlife habitat and livestock grazing, preparing sites for planting trees, controlling vegetative competition in young timber stands, controlling forest diseases, and reducing the threat of wildfire to resource values and the public.

### Forest Pest Management

The Forest Service carries out forest insect and disease prevention and suppression on National Forest lands and provides technical and financial assistance and coordination to support these activities on other forested lands.

Resource managers and pest management specialists work together to reduce pest-caused losses on our Nation's forest resources. This requires recognizing stand conditions conducive to pest outbreaks; detecting potentially damaging outbreaks; thoroughly evaluating potential impacts of these outbreaks; and preventing and suppressing outbreaks in a manner that is biologically, economically, and environmentally sound. Finally, a large part of the overall forest pest prevention and suppression effort must be applied as an integral part of forest resource management activities.

### Engineering

The Forest Service has a large and diversified engineering staff. Major activities include designing, building,

operating, and maintaining buildings and related facilities; protecting watersheds; developing potable water systems; collecting and disposing of sanitary and solid waste from recreational and administrative sites; and conducting cadastral surveys to establish National Forest System property lines and corners.

A large part of the agency's engineering effort is directed toward road and trail construction. Currently, the National Forest System has 320,000 miles of roads and 101,000 miles of trails.

A large force of Forest Service landscape architects insure that these and other management activities on the National Forests are visually pleasing.

## Cooperative Activities With State And Private Forest Owners

The Forest Service cooperates with State and local governments, forest industries, and other private landowners and forest users in the management, protection, and development of 877 million acres of forest land in non-Federal ownership.

Through its State and Private Forestry programs, the Forest Service provides financial and technical assistance to improve fire control and protect forests from insects and diseases; plan forestry programs that obtain the optimum uses from forest resources; improve practices in harvesting, processing, and marketing of forest products; encourage State forestry agencies in their programs; and transfer forestry research to the research users.

### Cooperative Resource Protection

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 provides for assistance in rural fire protection and forest pest management.

All 50 States have agreements with the Forest Service in the Cooperative Forest Fire Control Program. This program provides financial and technical assistance to the States to assist them in providing the needed organization, training, manpower, and equipment to protect 877 million acres of their lands.

The Cooperative Fire Control Program includes the Rural Fire Protection Program, under which the Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance to State Foresters for planning, training, and buying equipment for local firefighting organizations.

The Forest Service also administers a wildfire prevention program, featuring Smokey Bear, to reduce the incidence of human-caused fires on all wildlands.

Forty-six States cooperate in the Forest Pest Action Program, which is designed to assist States in forest insect and disease management. It is through this program that forest insect and disease management becomes an organized and continuing national effort.

### Cooperative Resource Management

Of the more than 482 million acres of commercial forest land in the Nation, approximately 58 percent is in more than 7.7 million farm and miscellaneous small private ownerships. Since these private nonindustrial lands make up so much of the Nation's commercial forest land, they must meet more than half the Nation's future demand for timber supplies.

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 also provides technical assistance from State and Federal sources to private forest landowners, forest operators and processors, and public agencies. All technical services are performed by the State forestry agencies, in cooperation with the Forest Service.

Annually, about 950 foresters working in 50 cooperating States, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands provide more than 140,000 assists to small woodland owners. Assistance in tree planting and seeding and timber stand improvement is provided on more than 800,000 acres each year.

State Service Foresters provide tax information to landowners as part of forest management assistance. A timber crop insurance program is being developed with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

The Forest Service cooperates in providing specialized assistance to loggers and wood processors through programs that are designed to influence better wood utilization by effectively reducing the amount of timber required for consumer goods and by developing energy from renewable resources.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has administrative responsibilities for the Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP), through which the Federal Government and private forest landowners share the cost of certain approved forestry practices. The Government may pay up to 80 percent of actual cost, depending on the practices involved. ACP forestry practices include the protection of forest lands, conservation of soil and water, improvement of wildlife habitat, timber production, and enhancement of forest recreational potential.

### Other Programs

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), jointly administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Forest Service, is designed to increase the supply of wood products, especially lumber and plywood, at a reasonable cost. FIP shares the cost of tree planting and timber stand improvement with nonindustrial private forest landowners,

As a result of this program, more than 1.3 million acres have been planted or reforested, and timber stand improvement work has been completed on more than 1 million acres on some 76,000 ownerships.

The Forest Service is responsible for the forest

management aspects of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program administered by the Soil Conservation Service. This program is designed to provide increased watershed protection and flood control through accelerated forest land treatment and structural installations.

To assist in improving watersheds, including work aimed at preventing and reducing flood damage, the Forest Service is active in eight of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's flood prevention projects.

The Forest Service participates in the forestry aspects of the River Basin Program, which guides and coordinates water and related land resource planning among several Federal departments. The States, Federal-State River Basin Commissions, and Interagency Committees participate in the program.

The Forest Resource Planning Program provides States with technical and financial assistance and training to develop long-range plans for the use and management of State forestry resources.

## Research to Support Forest-Related Activities

The Forest Service operates one of the world's largest forestry research organizations. The purpose of the agency's research efforts is to provide the scientific and technical knowledge necessary to protect the Nation's natural resources on all lands, gain the maximum benefit from their use, and leave the environment unspoiled.

Research is conducted through a network of eight regional Forest and Range Experiment Stations and the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis. Field studies and laboratory research are conducted at 70 locations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Trust Territories.

Research programs are planned jointly with the Nation's 61 forestry schools to promote more efficient use of research talents and facilities.

Criteria for research programs are: (1) responds to needs for which present technology is inadequate, (2) contributes to increased national productivity, (3) responds to national policies, and (4) relates to changes in demand for technology.

Forest Service scientists cooperate with scientists from other public agencies, educational institutions, and industries. Many of the technologies now used in the management of public and private forests and rangelands can be attributed to discoveries made by agency or cooperating scientists.

The principal areas of Forest Service research are land and resource protection, resource management, and wood utilization. The agency's research efforts cover an extensive range of specific subjects, including forest improvement, growth, and harvesting; forest economics; protection of forests from fire, diseases, and pests; and management and improvement of rangelands. Other subjects are management and improvement of wildlife and fish habitats; forest recreation and wilderness management; protection and management of watersheds; urban forestry; rehabilitation of lands disturbed by mining; forest engineering; efficient marketing and use of forest products; and international forestry.

The following projects, studies, and findings are representative of current forestry research efforts.

### Land and Resource Protection

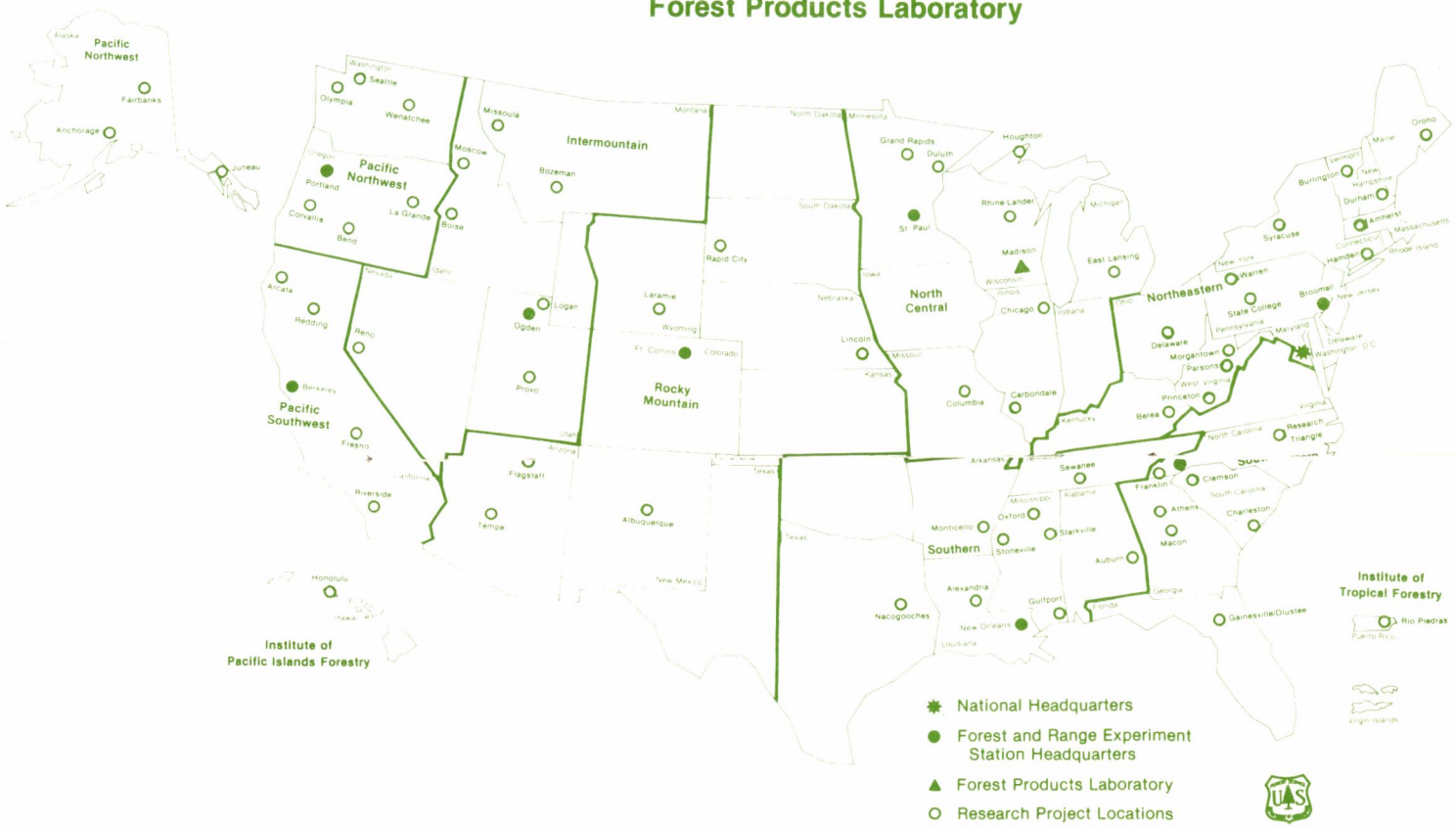
- Projections of supply and demand for forest products are continually updated. A 1982 report forecasts a shortage of softwood supplies by 2020 and suggests alternative actions to reduce the deficit.

- A continuing forest survey provides comprehensive information on the extent and condition of forest lands, the volume and quality of timber sources, trends in timber growth and harvest, and the long-range supply and demand outlook.
- More selective and less persistent chemical pesticides are being developed, with special emphasis on integrated pest management, which makes use of all management options. These include cultural, biological, chemical, genetic, and other techniques to effectively reduce pest damage without adversely affecting the environment.
- Genetic improvement of trees increases resistance to insects, diseases, and air pollution and helps meet anticipated demands for increased supplies of wood for fiber and energy.

## Renewable Resource Management

- Studies are conducted to determine wildlife and fish habitat requirements to find ways to improve such habitats.
- Analysis is made of the changing desires of wilderness and recreation users, and ways are developed to meet those needs without deterioration of recreational sites. Also, the social and economic values of outdoor recreation are evaluated.

# Forest and Range Experiment Stations, Forest Products Laboratory



- Inventories are made of range resources, and techniques are developed to improve the production and management of the multiple rangeland resources.
- Studies are conducted on the relationship between forage production, wildlife and fish habitat value, and timber harvesting.
- Trees and shrubs are used to solve environmental problems such as severe climatic conditions; noise; poor air quality; impacts of acid precipitation; impacts of strip mining on soil; and rehabilitation of land scarred by fires, floods, and earthmoving activities.
- Improved engineering systems for timber harvesting in remote, steep, and environmentally sensitive areas are under development. Balloons, helicopters, skyline cable systems, and new machines are being developed and tested to remove logs from young stands on steep slopes and other sensitive areas without damaging the soil or uncut trees.
- New fire management techniques are used to improve environmental quality. Examples are the correlation of burning periods with favorable weather conditions, control of smoke from prescribed fires, proper location and design of fuel breaks in brushy areas, and more effective application of prescribed fires.

**Wood Utilization Research**

- Improved use of wood residues, thinner saw blades, better dry-kiln management, computerized sawmilling, and development of new products help stretch America's wood supply. Studies at the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., have shown that these and similar measures can help reclaim much of the wood residue that is not now fully used.
- New technology for protecting wood from damage by insects, decay fungi, and other organisms increases the service life of wood.
- A system in which small logs are sawn into boards and then trimmed, and their edges glued together to make panels of desired width, permits greater utilization of such logs and increases yields by about 10 percent.
- The press-dry papermaking process applies heat and pressure to a hardwood paper mat during drying, bonding pulp fibers together into high-strength paper.

Hardwood papers are ordinarily weaker than softwood papers, but press-drying produces hardwood fiber papers that are as strong as conventional high-strength papers from the softwood.

- A new process, called Press-Lam, uses 30 percent less wood than traditional methods and allows manufacturers to make timbers much larger than the trees that provided the wood.
- A new frame design for house construction, called truss-framed, can save both money and lumber. The system requires less framing lumber per square foot of house and smaller sizes of framing lumber than conventional construction systems. Also, ductwork for heating and cooling can be eliminated. The truss-framed system is available to the American public and has been used in the construction of more than 1,000 homes.

**Other Research by Forest Service Scientists**

- The potential of forest lands for energy production is being explored. Energy research programs are improving the harvest and use of forest residues, particularly hardwood species, for energy; assessing the feasibility of intensive culture of "fuel plantations"; and developing processes to convert residues from wood-using industries into substitutes for petroleum-based products.
- The Forest Service participates in many international forestry activities, including technical assistance abroad, science and technology exchanges, training of foreign nationals, special foreign currency programs, technical cooperation, and forestry support through the Agency for International Development (AID).

### Human Resource Programs

The development and wise use of human resources is a valuable part of the mission of the Forest Service. The agency administers and hosts programs that provide work, training, and education to minorities, the economically depressed, the elderly, the handicapped, and youth. Through these activities, people try to help themselves become stronger and more self-sufficient citizens.

### Youth Conservation Corps

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is jointly administered by the Forest Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior. It provides summer employment for youths 15 through 18 years of age from all segments of society to do conservation work on public lands.

### Forest Service Volunteers

The Forest Service Volunteers program offers a variety of opportunities for interested persons or groups to contribute their talents, knowledge, and expertise toward the accomplishment of the Forest Service mission. Participants gain valuable work experience while helping preserve and conserve our natural resources. Work performed by volunteers complements the work of the Forest Service and helps reduce the backlog of conservation work that could not otherwise be done.

### Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers

Under an agreement with the Department of Labor, the Forest Service operates 18 Job Corps Centers to provide

education and training to 8,000 disadvantaged youths 18 through 22 years of age. Each youth is provided an opportunity to obtain a General Education Development certificate, the equivalent of a high school diploma. Also available are training in an occupation, individual counseling, and training in the behavioral sciences necessary to function in the world of work.

Vocational skills training is provided through work on actual on-the-job Forest Service projects.

Other services for each enrollee include room, board, clothes, medical and dental care, and a living allowance. Upon completion of the program, about 85 percent of enrollees are placed in jobs, go back to school, or join the military.

### Senior Community Service Employment Program

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department of Labor, sponsors the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The SCSEP has three fundamental purposes: (1) community services to the general public, (2) part-time employment and supplemental income, and (3) training and transition of participants to the private sector labor market. The program employs economically disadvantaged persons aged 55 and older in 38 States and Puerto Rico.

This older worker program seeks to improve the welfare of low-income elderly persons and to foster a renewed sense of self-worth and community involvement among traditionally poor and hard-to-employ older individuals living in rural areas.

Participants complete valuable conservation projects in all three branches of the Forest Service—National Forest System, Research, and State and Private Forestry.

### Cooperative Human Resource Programs

The Forest Service cooperates with State and local governments in various programs to host thousands of otherwise unemployed and underemployed persons. These persons perform conservation work on National Forest System lands, provide a public service, and sometimes receive necessary training that helps them obtain regular employment. The programs include Cooperative Work Study, Work Incentive Program, Vocational Skills Training, and similar programs. Many of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act programs are now implemented under direct grants to States.

## Informing and Involving the Public

The Forest Service sponsors several major efforts to obtain public awareness of Forest Service programs, activities, and services. The agency informs the public on how it can use National Forest System lands, resources, and facilities and provides current information on the status of ongoing work.

The Forest Service also provides information useful in the management of privately owned forest lands and on the types of assistance available for improving these lands. Research information is provided in an understandable form and made available to potential users.

The agency's environmental education program places special emphasis on involving educators, resource professionals, and citizen groups in developing skills and techniques for investigating and teaching others about their environment.

The inform and involve program aims to inform the public on natural resource matters as the basis for involving them in natural resource decisions being made by the Forest Service on both national and local levels. Development of RPA documents and forest plans includes extensive public involvement.

The Woodsy Owl program creates public awareness of pollution and environmental improvement problems and suggests solutions.

Through these and other public participation programs, the Forest Service works to broaden cooperative programs and problem solving with groups, organizations, and individuals.

**Give a hoot!**
**Don't pollute.**

## Major Legislation Authorizing Activities of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**1891: Creative Act of March 3, 1891** (16 U.S.C. 471)—Authorized the President to establish Forest Reserves from forest and range lands in the public domain. (Repealed by provisions of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.)

**1897: Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897** (16 U.S.C. 473-478, 479, 482, 551)—Established purpose and intent for the protection and management of the lands set aside and reserved as National Forests. Provided for the right of entry to persons for prospecting, locating, and developing mineral resources, and for the use of water and timber resources located on National Forests.

**1905: Transfer Act of February 1, 1905** (16 U.S.C. 472, 524, 554)—Transferred the Forest Reserves created by the 1891 Act and the authority to execute the appropriate laws pertaining to their management and protection from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture and established the Forest Service.

**1908: Twenty-Five Percent Payments to States Act of May 23, 1908** (16 U.S.C. 500)—Directed that 25 percent of all moneys received from each National Forest be paid annually to the States in which the National Forest is situated, for the benefit of the public schools and roads of the counties in which the National Forest is located.

**1911: Weeks Law-Act of March 1, 1911** (16 U.S.C. 480, 515, 517, 521, 552, 563)—Authorized the acquisition of lands, by purchase or exchange, to be administered as National Forest lands for timber production and regulation of flow of navigable streams.

**1924: Clarke-McNary Act of June 7, 1924** (16 U.S.C. 471, 499, 505, 568, 570)—Directed the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the States in promoting systems of fire prevention, conservation, reforestation, and forestry education for land suitable for the production of water and forest resources. (Portions of this act were repealed by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.)

**1930: Knutson-Vandenburg Act of June 9, 1930** (16 U.S.C. 576-576b)—Required purchasers of National Forest timber to deposit money, in addition to timber

stumpage payments, to cover costs to the United States of replanting harvested areas and removing undesirable trees from the areas. Established forest tree nurseries.

**1937: Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937** (7 U.S.C. 1010-1012)—Provided for development of a national land conservation and land utilization program for management of acquired lands, and provided for the sale or exchange of acquired lands. (Some of the lands acquired under this Act subsequently became the National Grasslands.)

**1952: Smokey Bear Act of May 23, 1952** (18 U.S.C. 711)—The Smokey Bear Act was passed to protect Smokey's name and character from misuse and unauthorized use.

**1960: Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act** (16 U.S.C. 528-531)—Supplemented the purpose for which the National Forests were established to include outdoor recreation, watershed, range, timber, and wildlife and fish purposes. Directed that the renewable surface resources be managed to achieve a sustaining yield in perpetuity without impairment of the land's productivity.

**1962: McIntire-Stennis Act of October 10,1962** (16 U.S.C. 528a-)—Made funds available to States on a matching basis to help carry out forestry research at land grant institutions and State-supported forestry schools.

**1964: Wilderness Act** (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136)—Enabled Congress to establish certain areas to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Nucleus of the system in 1964 was the 9 million acres of Federal wildernesses managed as wild and primitive areas by the Forest Service since 1924. Provided for studies on the inclusion of additional wildernesses.

**1964: Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965** (16 U.S.C. 460, 23 U.S.C. 120)—Established a system of financing Federal grants to States for recreation, planning, and development. The Forest Service and other Federal agencies were authorized to purchase lands and water areas primarily suited for recreational development. Funds were to be derived from motorboat fuel taxes, admission and use fees in National Park and National Forest areas, and surplus property sales.

**1964: National Forest Roads and Trails System Act of October 13, 1964** (16 U.S.C. 532-538)—Provided for the construction and maintenance of a roads and trails system to enable protection and management of National Forest land.

**1968: National Trails System Act** (16 U.S.C. 1241-1249)—Established a national system of recreational and scenic trails, and designated Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails as initial components in the system. Provided for studies of other national recreational and national scenic trails.

**1968: Wild and Scenic River Act** (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287)—Designated certain rivers in the Nation as having outstanding scenic, geologic, recreational, cultural, or other attributes meriting their retention in a free-flowing condition, through protected corridors. Also provided for the study of other rivers.

**1970: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969** (42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347)—Declared the enhancement of harmony between people and their environment to be a national policy, and established a Council on Environmental Quality. Required all Federal agencies to prepare reports on environmental impact of major planned programs or actions by the agency and to suggest alternative actions.

**1970: Youth Conservation Corps Acts of 1970 and 1972** (16 U.S.C. 1701-1706)—Provided for the summer employment of youths 15 through 18 years of age. The youths so enrolled were to be employed for conserving, developing, preserving, or maintaining public lands administered by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, and by the States.

**1972: Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972** (16 U.S.C. 588a-588d)—Provided for the recruitment and training of individuals to perform volunteer work supporting Forest Service programs and activities without compensation.

**1973: Endangered Species Act of 1973** (16 U.S.C. 1531-1542)—Provided for the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and plant species.

**1974: Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974** (16 U.S.C. 1600-1614)—A

planning and budgetary procedure that requires the Forest Service to prepare long-range assessments of the Nation's forest and rangeland resources and develop programs for the National Forest System. Programs for 1975 and 1980 from Secretary of Agriculture were based on assessments of present and anticipated supply and demand needs and inventories of present and potential resource opportunities. Annual program reports on Forest Service programs are to be made.

**1974: Woodsy Owl Campaign Act of June 22, 1974** (31 U.S.C. 488b)—Authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to license the manufacture and distribution of Woodsy Owl merchandise and to collect royalty fees for such licensed use, and to protect legal users from unauthorized use of the antipollution symbol.

**1976: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976** (43 U.S.C. 1701)—Provided organic authority for the management of public lands by the Secretary of the Interior, prescribing detailed management direction in such areas as land use planning, land acquisition and disposal withdrawals, range management, and rights-of-way. The act also provided statutory authorities for the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior in range management, issuance of rights-of-way, and certain other miscellaneous aspects of management of lands by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

**1976: National Forest Management Act of 1976** (16 U.S.C. 472, 476, 500, 513-521, 528, 576, 594, 1600-1614)—Amended the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to provide for new timber management authorities and a coordinated land management planning process that requires full public participation in the development and revision of land management plans for the National Forest System. The act provided comprehensive new authorities for the management, sale, and harvesting of National Forest timber; statutory protection for National Forests created from the public domain; and direction for bidding on National Forest timber; and for road building associated with timber harvesting; reforestation; salvage sales; and the handling of receipts from timber sales activities.

**1978: Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978** (16 U.S.C. 2101-2111)—Authorized technical assistance, cost sharing, and resource protection programs on non-Federal forest lands, through cooperative agreements with State forestry agencies. Repealed and consolidated legislative authority for cooperative forestry assistance and forestry incentives enacted since 1924, specifically portions of the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924, the Forest Pest Control Act of 1947, the Cooperative Forest Management Act of 1950, and sections of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.

**1978: Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978** (16 U.S.C. 1600)—Authorized a forestry research program in resource management, environmental protection, forest products utilization, and resource assessment. Repealed, updated, and expanded the authority for forestry research provided originally by the McSweeney-McNary Act of 1928.

**1978: Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978** (43 U.S.C. 1751-1753, 1901-1908; 16 U.S.C. 1333)—Amended the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of P976 and the Wild Horse and Burros Protection Act of 1971 to provide additional direction and authorities for management of public rangelands. Established a statutory grazing fee formula in 16 Western States for the years 1979-85, excluding the National Grasslands.

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
# FOREST SERVICE

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES

### NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

Protects and manages 191 million acres:
- 186.6 million acres National Forests
- 3.8 million acres National Grasslands
- 471,405 acres of Land Utilization Projects, Purchase Units, Research and Experimental Areas, and others

On these lands are:
- 3.5 million big-game animals
- 194.9 billion cubic feet of standing timber
- 64 threatened or endangered wildlife, fish, and plant species

Fiscal year 1982 receipts:
- $730.2 million from National Forests as follows—
  - $529.1 million from timber sales
  - $12.2 million from grazing fees
  - $126.5 million from mineral receipts
  - $11.2 million from recreation admission and user fees
  - $14.1 million from recreation special uses, such as ski areas
  - $36.8 million from power and other

In fiscal year 1982:
- $230.4 million was returned to States

In fiscal year 1982:
- No. of timber sales—143,705
- Timber sold—10 billion bd. ft.
- Value of timber sold—$614 million
- Volume of timber harvested—6.7 billion bd. ft.
- Value of timber—$340 million
- 382,800 acres planted and seeded
- 361,000 acres of timber stand improvement
- 161.9 million tree seedlings produced in nurseries
- 233.5 million recreation visitor-days
- 8.9 million animal-unit months of grazing
- 8,700 miles of road constructed and reconstructed
- 366 miles of trails constructed or reconstructed
- 60,526 acres burned by 8,535 wildfires

9 REGIONS

- 155 National Forests, administered by 121 Supervisors
- 19 National Grasslands
- 18 Land Utilization Projects
- 13 Nurseries
- 653 Ranger Districts
- 18 Civilian Conservation Centers

### RESEARCH

through science produces knowledge and technology for:

Managing resources
- Timber
- Water
- Range
- Wildlife and fish habitat
- Recreation

Protecting resources
- Wildfire
- Insect
- Disease
- Pollution

Utilizing wood resources
- Wood products
- Marketing
- Engineering systems

plus

Resource surveys and related economics

- 8 Forest and Range Experiment Stations
- 1 Forest Products Laboratory
- 70 other research locations

- 220 research projects
- 4,000 individual studies
- 900 scientists
- 1,900 publications annually

### COOPERATION

with State and private owners on 455 million acres to meet the needs of an expanding population through

- 141,472 woodland owner assists for improved management
- 796.2 million forest and wind barrier planting stock distributed, under cooperative programs

Providing protection
- Reforestation of 546,000 acres
- Increasing forest yields
- Assists to wood-using industries for utilizing forest products and reducing wood waste, which affected 137.6 million cubic feet of forest products
- Conserving soil and water
- Providing forest recreation
- Enhancing natural beauty
- Increasing fish and wildlife habitat

1 Area, 8 Regions

Cooperation with 50 States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Pacific Trust Territories

Public agencies, community development organizations, and forestry industry

Revised May 1983